

however, the lady's discontent arrived at such a pitch that she sent for Dr. McClinton, but he refused to see her when he learned that he (Dr. Kidd) had charge of the case. She then went to London, and consulted one of the most eminent obstetricians there, but he (Dr. Kidd) believed the gentleman was led away by the statements of the lady, for he sent her to Kreuznach to get rid of the tumour, which, however, proved to be a four months' foetus. He believed that, in the first instance, it was best to express only qualified opinions in such cases, and always assume that the patient was pregnant, but not adopt any expedient to insure the expulsion of the child until we had indisputable evidence of its death.

Dr. Denham said he thought that their attention ought to be directed to the importance of preserving the life of the mother. He thought in cases of retained ovum in which there had been repeated hæmorrhages it was scarcely worth their trouble to preserve the ovum. In two of the six cases mentioned ergot seemed to have had a magic effect, and to have brought about immediate relief. His experience of the use of ergot was by no means commensurate with those facts. He had used it again and again without really much effect. If they came to the conclusion that active measures must be taken, he had no hesitation in saying that they should apply the sound, which he thought was better than the exhibition of ergot.

The President would like to confirm what had been said by Dr. Denham with regard to the inefficiency of ergot in such cases as those of retained ovum. He believed in its effect in arresting hæmorrhage, but it did not necessarily expel the ovum, and he believed it had no effect in doing so. He had recently had a patient who had previously had three miscarriages, and who was, for the fourth time, suffering from well-marked symptoms of abortion in the third month of her pregnancy. In her case he administered ergot for three weeks, and the result was that the hæmorrhage and pain ceased, and she went on to her full time.—*Obstet. Jour.*

SIR WILLIAM FERGUSSON.—We have the pleasure to report that Sir William Fergusson continues to make good progress and to regain strength. He now walks downstairs, and, weather permitting, he will be taking a daily drive.

## A CASE OF COMPLICATED LABOUR.

BY A. V. MACAN, M.B.

In such cases Professor V. Hecker, of Munich, has used the subcutaneous injection of ether with marked success, and recommends it strongly to the profession. The importance of the subject, the respect due to such a high authority, and the fact that cases in which this treatment can be put to the test happen but rarely in the practice of any one individual, must be my excuse for bringing a single case, and that, perhaps, an exceptionally favourable one, under the notice of this Society, without waiting to see whether further experience would, or would not, confirm the results obtained in this instance.

I was requested by Mr. Kilbride, then one of the intern pupils of the Rotunda Hospital, to visit a case of tedious face presentation, at 22, Temple Bar, off Fleet Street.

\* \* \* She was quite insensible, deadly pale, and pulseless, with fixed eyes, dilated pupils, clammy face and extremities, and short and superficial respiration. On examining the vulva, I found there was a thin streak of blood flowing over the thigh, and as it was obvious that if the smallest quantity more blood were lost the patient must die, I determined to combine the injection of the perchloride of iron into the uterus with the subcutaneous injection of ether. Having, therefore, grasped a fold of the skin covering the abdomen, I injected two syringefuls, or about ʒss, of ether well into the subcutaneous cellular tissue, and then injected about six ounces of the usual solution of iron into the uterus. Before I had finished injecting the iron the pulse returned at the wrist, and, emboldened by this, I injected a third syringe-ful of ether close to the former one. The effect produced was most marked, the woman soon turning of her own accord over on her side, and declaring, when asked how she was, that she felt much better. The change was so sudden and so great that every one in the room was satisfied it was produced by the ether. Shortly afterwards the woman vomited, and though it was a long time before reaction was established, the woman improved so much that I felt justified in again leaving her in charge